

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to place all element in non-means-plus-function format. It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 5, and claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New dependent claims 15-18 have been added. No new matter is included in these amendments.

At page 6, the Office Action notes that claims 5, 8 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, since claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of dependent claim 5 and to overcome any outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Claims 3-4 and 6-18 each depend on claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-4 and 6-18 are patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

Date: March 3, 2009  
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